IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system for routing data across heterogeneous networks comprising:

a first network having a first protocol;

B1 a ~~second network~~ storage area network having a second protocol, wherein the second protocol is incompatible with the first protocol;

a first device connected to the first network;

a second device connected to the second network; and

a switch coupled between the first network and the ~~second~~ storage area network;

wherein requests from the first device to the second device are formatted according to the first protocol and transmitted to the switch; and

wherein the switch is configured to detect the requests and to reformat the requests according to the second protocol and transmit the requests to the second device.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the first network is an out-of-band network and the ~~second~~ storage area network is an in-band network.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the switch comprises:

an HTTP server coupled to an HTTP client, wherein the HTTP server is configured to receive the requests formatted according to the first protocol from the first device and wherein the HTTP client is configured to forward corresponding requests formatted according to ~~the second~~ a fiber channel protocol to the second device on the storage area network.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the system further comprises a default gateway separate from the switch coupled to the first network~~,~~ and a third network, wherein the third network comprises the Internet.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the system further comprises a proxy server separate from the switch coupled to the first network and a third network, wherein the third network comprises the Internet.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the system further comprises a firewall which is separate from the switch.

B1

7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the request includes an IP address corresponding to the switch and information identifying the second device and the subject of the request.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the switch is configured to receive the requests and to identify the requests as being directed to the second device.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein each of the requests includes a keyword which indicates that the subject of the request should be forwarded to a device connected to the second network and wherein the switch is configured to identify the requests as being directed to the second device by detecting the keyword.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for routing data across heterogeneous networks comprising:

B1

formulating a first request for data in a first device;

transmitting the first request to a switching device via a first network, wherein the first request is transmitted according to a first protocol;

formulating in the switching device a second request corresponding to the first request;

transmitting the second request to a second device ~~via~~ on a ~~second~~ storage area network, wherein the second request is transmitted according to a second protocol and wherein the second protocol is incompatible with the first protocol;

formulating a first response in the second device, wherein the first response is responsive to the second request;

transmitting the first response to the switching device via the ~~second~~ storage area network, wherein the first response is transmitted according to the second protocol;

formulating in the switching device a second response corresponding to the first response; and

transmitting the second response to the first device, wherein the response is transmitted according to the first protocol.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the switching device comprises a server coupled to the first network and a client coupled to the ~~second~~ storage area network, wherein transmitting the first request to the switching device comprises transmitting the first request to the server and wherein formulating the second request comprises the client formulating the second request.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the first request and the second request ask for the same data.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the first response and the second response provide the same data.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein formulating the requests comprises formulating HTTP requests.

B1

15. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein transmitting the first request to a switching device comprises transmitting the first request to a device other than a default gateway.

16. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein transmitting the first request to a switching device comprises transmitting the first request to a device other than a proxy server.

17. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein formulating the first request comprises formulating a uniform resource locator (URL) that includes an IP address corresponding to the switching device and information identifying the subject of the request.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein formulating the first request comprises formulating a URL that further comprises an address of the second device.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 further comprising the switching device identifying the first request as being directed to a device connected to the ~~second~~ storage area network.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 further comprising the switching device formatting the subject of the first request in the second request and forwarding the second request to the second device.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19 further comprising the switching device identifying a keyword in the first request, wherein the keyword indicates the format of the information contained in the first request.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 further comprising parsing the information contained in the first request according to the format identified by the keyword.

23. (Currently Amended) A network interface for enabling communications between a first network having a first protocol and a ~~second~~ storage area network having a second protocol comprising:

B1

a server configured to receive a first request from a device on the first network, wherein the first request contains an indicator that the first request is directed to a device on the ~~second~~ storage area network; and

a client coupled to the server and configured to receive information from the server indicating the device on the ~~second~~ storage area network and the information requested from the device on the ~~second~~ storage area network;

wherein the client is further configured to generate a second request and to transmit the second request to the device on the ~~second~~ storage area network;

wherein the client is further configured to receive the requested information from the device on the ~~second~~ storage area network and to convey the requested information to the server; and

wherein the server is configured to transmit the requested information to the device on the first network.

24. (Currently Amended) The network interface of claim 23 wherein the server is an HTTP server, the client is an HTTP client, ~~and~~ the first and second requests are uniform resource locators (URLs), and the storage area network operates according to a fiber channel protocol.

25. (Original) The network interface of claim 24 wherein the URL corresponding to the first request includes an address corresponding to the server and wherein the indicator comprises a predetermined key word.

26. (Original) The network interface of claim 25 wherein the URL corresponding to the first request contains a URL following the key word, wherein the client is configured to produce the URL following the key word as the URL corresponding to the second request.

27. (Currently Amended) The network interface of claim 23 wherein the ~~TCP~~ server is configured to detect URLs containing ~~the~~ a key word and the ~~TCP~~ client is configured to

generate new URLs corresponding to the detected URLs, wherein the new URLs do not contain the key word.

B1

28. (Original) The network interface of claim 23 wherein the client is configured to generate requests which are formatted according to a physical layer protocol that is different than the physical layer protocol according to which the first request is transmitted to the server.

29. (Original) The network interface of claim 23 wherein the network interface comprises a switch containing the server and the client.

B2

30. (New) A method for routing data across heterogeneous networks comprising:

formulating a first request for data in a first device;

transmitting the first request to a switching device via a first network, wherein the first request is transmitted according to a first protocol;

identifying a keyword in the first request, wherein the keyword indicates the format of information in the first request;

parsing the first request based on the keyword;

formulating in the switching device a second request based on the format indicated by the keyword;

transmitting the second request to a second device via a second network, wherein the second request is transmitted according to a second protocol and wherein the second protocol is incompatible with the first protocol;

formulating a first response in the second device, wherein the first response is responsive to the second request;

transmitting the first response to the switching device via the second network, wherein the first response is transmitted according to the second protocol;

formulating in the switching device a second response corresponding to the first response; and

transmitting the second response to the first device, wherein the response is transmitted according to the first protocol.

31. (New) The method of Claim 30, wherein the first request comprises a URL following the key word and wherein switching devices produces the URL following the key word as a URL corresponding to the second request.

32. (New) The method of Claim 30, further comprising detecting URLs containing the key word.

33. (New) The method of Claim 32, further comprising generating new URLs corresponding to the detected URLs, wherein the new URLs do not contain the key word

34. (New) A system for routing data across heterogeneous networks comprising:

a first network operating according to a first protocol;

a first device coupled to the first network;

a second network operating according to a second protocol;

a second device coupled to the second network;

a switch coupled to the first network and the second network;

wherein the first device is configured to generate a first request containing a keyword indicating a arrangement of information in the first request; and

wherein the switch is configured to:

receive the first request;

parse the first request based on the keyword;

generate a second request based on information in the first request;

send the second request to the second device according to the second protocol;

receive a first response from the second device;

generate a second response based on the first response; and

transmit the second response to the first device according to the first protocol.

35. (New) The system of Claim 34, wherein the first request comprises a URL corresponding to the switch, the keyword, and one or more additional URLs.

36. (New) The system of Claim 35, wherein the switch is configured to generate the second request based on the one or more additional URLs in the first request.

37. (New) The system of Claim 34, wherein the second protocol comprises a fiber channel protocol.

38. (New) The system of Claim 37, wherein the second network comprises a storage area network.